

Comparative effects of prolonged freshwater and saline flooding on nitrogen cycling in an agricultural soil



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ABSTRACT

Due to climate change, the frequency and duration of flood events are predicted to increase in many regions of the world. This is expected to cause large changes in soil functioning and to a progressive decline in soil quality such as reduced rates of nutrient cycling, enhanced greenhouse gas emissions and loss of soil biodiversity. There is a knowledge gap, however, on how temperate agricultural soils under different management practices (e.g. manure application) respond to prolonged river or coastal flooding. The main objective of this work was to determine the effects of a simulated prolonged flooding with saline and freshwater on soil N cycling, following application of a low C:N organic amendment (broiler litter) at two temperatures, representative of a winter and a spring flood event. Using laboratory mesocosms we simulated prolonged winter (6 °C) and spring (14 °C) flooding of soil amended with broiler litter. We also compared the effects of inundation with either river (freshwater) or coastal (saline) water. An agricultural grassland soil (Eutric Cambisol) was subjected to different combinations of treatments (flood with fresh or saline water, winter vs spring temperatures, with/without poultry manure). The impact of these treatments on soil solution N dynamics, greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂, CH₄, N₂O) and microbial community structure (by PLFA analysis) were evaluated over an 11 week simulated flood event followed by an 8 week soil recovery period (without flood). Overall, potential losses of NH₄⁺ and cumulative GHG emissions were increased by flooding and the presence of manure. CH₄ emissions were found to dominate under freshwater flooding conditions and N₂O under saline flooding. Significant releases of GHG occurred during both flooding and after floodwater removal. Temperature was less influential on regulating GHG under the different treatments. These releases in GHG were associated with disruption in N cycling and changes in soil microbial composition and these changes persisted after floodwater removal. Extreme flooding negatively impacts soil functioning, however, the magnitude of any changes remain critically dependent on flood duration and source of flood water, and management conditions. Further work is required at the field scale to understand the molecular basis of the responses observed in this study.

1. Introduction

Changes in global weather patterns and the increased incidence of extreme events in recent years are starting to negatively impact on the sustainability of agricultural ecosystems (IPCC, 2013). Although storms and extreme flood events are not rare, evidence suggests that their frequency and magnitude is increasing in many regions of the world (Pohl et al., 2017; WMO, 2013). These are exemplified by recent extreme flood events in many parts of Europe (Met Office, 2014; Romanescu and Stoleriu, 2017). Typically, these are triggered by prolonged heavy rainfall, however, they are being further compounded in coastal regions by global sea level rise and tidal surges (Haigh et al.,

2016; Nicholls et al., 1999). In some cases, flooding affects soils with a known history of waterlogging (e.g. Fluvisols, Gleysols) and the consequences may not be too severe, however, areas with no previous history of flooding are also becoming affected. For example, in the extreme winter storms of 2014, floodwater covered large areas of agricultural land in the UK for up to 3 months with floodwater depths exceeding 2 m, ultimately leading to the loss of crops and excessive soil erosion (Defra, 2014; Sibley et al., 2015; Smith et al., 2017). These extreme events have the potential to cause irreversible damage to plant growth, agricultural productivity and ecosystem functioning (Niu et al., 2014), as a result of disruptions in soil physical structure, nutrient cycling (Baldwin and Mitchell, 2000; Scalenghe et al., 2012) and soil

Abbreviations: GHG, greenhouse gas; PLFA, phospholipid fatty acid

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microbial function (Bossio and Scow, 1998).

The nitrogen (N) cycle may be particularly affected by extreme flooding due to its capacity to reduce soil O_2 concentrations and the subsequent effects this has on key soil processes such as N mineralisation, immobilisation, nitrification and denitrification as well as plant N uptake (Herzog et al., 2016). Typically, prolonged waterlogging can cause the accumulation of NH_4^+ in soil (White and Reddy, 2009), stimulate NH_3 volatilization (Zhong-Cheng et al., 2012), whilst any NO_3^- present in the soil at the time of flooding may be denitrified and represent a source of N_2O emissions (Granli and Bockman, 1994). Prolonged flooding also has the potential to increase leaching of residual soil nitrate depending on the nature of the flood event (i.e. surface-versus ground-water driven floods; Huber et al., 2012).

The relative contribution of different anthropogenic activities to the increased incidence of flooding remains uncertain, however, it has been directly linked to shifts in land use, increased urban run-off, river network engineering and indirectly to increased greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (i.e., methane- CH_4 , carbon dioxide- CO_2 and nitrous oxide- N_2O) (Pall et al., 2011). As the agricultural release of CH_4 and N_2O are frequently stimulated under waterlogging conditions, there is potential for a positive feedback on climate change and flood risk. In addition, N_2O may be released following floodwater removal as the block in nitrification is removed or during partial denitrification (Norton, 2008; Robertson and Groffman 2007).

There are numerous studies on the effects of flooding on N and carbon (C) cycling in rice paddy fields (Nguyen et al., 2015; Peng et al., 2011; Pereira et al., 2013; Zhang et al., 2012; Zhang et al., 2015), riparian zones (Baldwin and Mitchell, 2000) and wetlands (Unger et al., 2009; Wang et al., 2013). In contrast, however, there are fewer published studies on the impacts of extreme flooding for temperate agricultural soils, particularly those with no previous history of flooding and under contrasting management regimes (Hansen et al., 2014).

We hypothesize that one of the agricultural practices that is most likely to influence how soil quality responds to flooding is the presence of nutrient-rich organic material with different N mineralization rates (e.g. animal manures or green cover crops; Masunga et al., 2016). Our rationale is that these fertilisers are typically applied to soil before crop establishment when winter/spring flooding occurs and they are well known to promote shifts in microbial community functioning and greatly influence net GHG emissions (Snyder et al., 2009). Further, we hypothesized that the outcome will be greatly influenced by floodwater type. We predict that saline coastal flooding will emit less GHG due to the high concentration of alternative electron acceptors in seawater (28 mM SO_4^{2-}) relative to freshwater (ca. < 0.1 mM SO_4^{2-}), and also to the negative impact of excess NaCl on microbial activity. Our aim was therefore to determine the effects of simulated prolonged flooding with saline or freshwater on soil N cycling, following the application of a low C:N organic amendment (broiler litter), which could accelerate or slow the decomposition of soil organic matter (Liu et al., 2017) at two temperatures, representative of a winter and a spring flood. Our main objectives were to investigate alterations in (1) N cycling, including changes in soil water chemistry and GHG emissions (CH_4 , CO_2 and N_2O), and (2) soil microbial structure at the end of flooding (11 weeks), and after the soil recovery period (8 weeks).

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Soil, water and manure properties

Replicate soil samples (5–20 cm depth; Ah horizon, Eutric Cambisol) were collected from a low intensity sheep (*Ovis aries* L.) grazed grassland dominated by *Lolium perenne* L. located at the Henfaes Experimental Station, Abergwyngregyn, UK (53°14'19"N, 4°00'55"W; altitude 18 m a.s.l.). The mean annual temperature at the site is 10 °C and the mean annual rainfall is 960 mm. Within living memory, the sampling site has not previously been flooded, however, the

surrounding region has recently been subjected to both unprecedented river and coastal flooding (Sibley et al., 2015; see Supplementary Information, Fig. A.1 and Fig. A.2). Prior to use, the soil was coarse-sieved (1 cm mesh) to remove any discernible roots and stones, maintain the soil's crumb structure and minimize changes in microbial activity and N cycling (Jones and Willett, 2006). Particle size was analyzed according to Gee and Bauder (1986) while total C and N was determined using a Truspec® CN Elemental Analyser (Leco Corp, St Joseph, MI). Plant-available P and K were determined by extracting the soil with 0.5 M acetic acid (1:5 w/v; 1 h, 200 rev min⁻¹), centrifuging the extracts (10,000 g, 10 min) and analyzing P by the molybdate blue method of Murphy and Riley (1962) and K by flame photometry using a Sherwood Scientific Flame Photometer (Fisher Scientific, Loughborough, UK). Soil pH and electrical conductivity (EC) were determined in (1:2.5 v/v) soil:distilled water extracts using standard electrodes.

Two different sources of floodwater were used in the experiment: (1) freshwater from the nearest large watercourse (Rhaeadr-fawr river, 53°14'8"N, 4°0'59"W; located ca. 350 m away from the soil sampling site), and (2) seawater, from the adjacent Menai Strait (53°14' 20"N, 4°1'54"W; located ca. 700 m away from the soil sampling site). Floodwater pH and EC were measured directly using standard electrodes, while NH_4^+ was determined colorimetrically using the salicylate method of Mulvaney (1996) and NO_3^- using the vanadate method of Miranda et al. (2001) using an Epoch® microplate spectrophotometer (BioTek Instruments Inc., Winooski, VT).

Broiler litter was collected from a commercial poultry farm on Anglesey, North Wales (53°15'N, 4°18'W). Its dry matter content was determined by oven drying (105 °C, 48 h). Its total C and N content, NH_4^+ and NO_3^- were determined on fresh material as detailed above. Total P and total K were analysed in dry manure (105 °C, 24 h) after sieving to pass a 1 mm screen and digesting with aqua-regia (EPA, 1996). Manure pH was determined in a 1:6 (w/v) manure:distilled water extract using standard electrodes while uric acid was determined according to Cox et al. (1996). After collection, all soil, floodwater and manure were kept refrigerated at 4 °C until required.

2.2. Experimental treatments and stages of the experiment

Transparent polypropylene containers (11 × 8 cm base, 27 cm high; $n = 48$) were filled with 850 g of sieved field-moist soil to achieve a bulk density of 1 g cm⁻³ based on field measurements of the soil in situ. Broiler litter (8 g mesocosm⁻¹, equivalent to 9.1 t ha⁻¹ on a surface area basis) was then mixed by hand with the soil in half of the mesocosms. The rate was chosen to reflect those typically used on UK grasslands (Defra, 2010). Broiler litter was chosen based on its widespread use for improving soil quality and its presence in fields impacted by the UK's 2014 extreme floods. Overall, the experiment had 4 main treatments:

- Soil only (Control)
- Soil + flooding
- Soil + manure
- Soil + manure + flooding

The secondary factors in the experiment were floodwater type (freshwater vs. saline) and temperature regime (6 °C vs. 14 °C) giving 48 mesocosms in total. A Rhizon® soil water sampler (Rhizosphere Research Products, Wageningen, The Netherlands) was placed in the centre of the soil at an angle of 45° in each mesocosm prior to the addition of floodwater. Two hundred and fifty ml of fresh or saline floodwater was carefully added to the soil surface in all mesocosms to achieve field capacity – these were defined as the non-flooded treatments. For the 'flooded' treatments, additional floodwater (ca. 1 l) was added to half the mesocosms to achieve a flood depth 9 cm above the soil surface. This reflected field observations of typical flood depths within the region. Finally, the boxes were randomized and placed in climate-control rooms in the dark at either 6 °C (simulated winter) or 14 °C (simulated spring) and loosely covered with polythene to

minimize evaporative losses. In total, there were 16 combinations of factors, with each treatment performed in triplicate.

The experiment had two different stages: (1) the flood stage (0–11 weeks) in which half the mesocosms were kept flooded; and (2) the recovery stage (12–20 weeks), in which the standing water was removed from the flooded treatments. The unflooded mesocosms were maintained at field capacity for the first 14 weeks by adding distilled water weekly (based on their weight loss). Similarly, the flood depth was maintained at a constant height during the flood phase by weekly additions of floodwater. No water was added to the mesocosms in weeks 15–20 to allow the soil to dry (reflecting typical field conditions in late spring). During this latter period soil solutions were not collected as the soil was too dry.

2.3. Flood and soil water chemistry

Weekly sampling of floodwater and soil solution were made for the first 14 weeks using a pipette and the Rhizon® samplers, respectively, and analysed for NH_4^+ and NO_3^- as described above. pH and EC in the floodwater were measured on the first and last day of the flood stage.

During the flood stage, the potential losses of nutrients or the total amount of nutrient released into the soil solution and overlying floodwater (C_{release}) was calculated as follows:

$$C_{\text{release}} (\text{g container}^{-1}) = [C_{\text{sol}} \times V_{\text{soil}} \times \Theta] + [C_{\text{flood}} \times V_{\text{flood}}] \quad (1)$$

where C_{sol} is the concentration of nutrient in the soil solution, C_{flood} is the concentration in the floodwater (the maximum concentrations obtained in the flood phase), V_{soil} and V_{flood} are the volume of soil and floodwater respectively and Θ is the volumetric water content (0.5 cm cm^{-3}).

2.4. Greenhouse gas measurements

For the GHG measurements, the containers were hermetically sealed and two 20 ml gas samples taken from the container headspace through a rubber septum, the first one at time 0 (T_0) and the second one after 60 min (T_{60}). GHG sampling occurred 3–4 times per week at the beginning and at the end of the flood stage, and at the beginning of soil recovery stage, but was reduced to once per week for the other periods of the experiment. Pre-evacuated glass vials were used to store headspace samples prior to analysis. Methane, CO_2 and N_2O concentrations in the headspace of the mesocosms were analysed using a *clarus* 500 gas chromatograph equipped with a capillary column and Turbomatrix HS-40 headspace autoanalyzer (carrier gas pressure 138 kPa, injection pressure 160 kPa; Perkin Elmer Inc., Waltham, CT). A ^{63}Ni electron-capture detector was used to determine N_2O concentrations and a flame ionization detector (FID) connected to a methanizer used to measure CH_4 and CO_2 . The temperatures of the injector, oven and detector were 40°C , 40°C and 375°C , respectively. Fluxes were estimated as the slope of the linear regression between concentrations and time (1 h) after corrections for temperature, and from the ratio between chamber volume and soil surface area (MacKenzie et al., 1998). Cumulative fluxes were estimated using the trapezoidal rule (Sanz-Cobena et al., 2014), multiplying the mean of two successive daily fluxes by the number of hours between the two measurements and adding that amount to the previous cumulative total. The global warming potential (GWP) of CH_4 , CO_2 and N_2O were estimated in CO_2 equivalents by multiplying the cumulative fluxes at the end of the experiment by 34 for CH_4 , 1 for CO_2 and by 298 for N_2O (IPCC, 2013).

2.5. Soil microbial community analysis

Phospholipid fatty acid (PLFA) analyses were carried out after collecting 25 g of soil from each container at the end of the flood stage, and at the end of the soil recovery stage. After collection, the samples were

frozen at -80°C until analysis. PLFA analysis was undertaken as detailed in Bartelt-Ryser et al. (2005). Although a total of 107 fatty acids were identified in the soil samples, Table A.1 shows the 35 that were subsequently used in the analysis because they had a concentration higher than 0.5% of the total PLFAs. These included biomarkers for Gram + and Gram – bacteria, actinomycetes, anaerobic bacteria (anaerobe), putative arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AM fungi), protozoa and fungi. Total PLFAs was used as a proxy of soil microbial biomass (SMB). Standard nomenclature followed that of Frostegård et al. (1993). From the individual PLFAs, different microbial abundance ratios were calculated including: Fungi-to-bacteria; predator-to-prey (protozoa/bacteria) to estimate the availability of nutrients; Gram +/Gram – as an indicator of soil aeration state (Bossio and Scow, 1998); saturated/unsaturated fatty acids (sat/unsat) to assess the stability of the microbial community. Ratios of mono/polyunsaturated fatty acids (mono/poly); precursor/cyclopropane fatty acids (precursor/cyclopropane fatty acids; and $16\omega/17$ cyclo and $18\omega/19$ cyclo) were used to identify possible stress (Knivett and Cullen, 1965).

2.6. Statistical analysis

Repeated measures analysis of variance (ANOVA) based on a completely randomized design for the 4 treatments (combination of two factors, flooding and manure application: control and manure with and without flooding), and 3 replicates per treatment were applied to soil solution NH_4^+ and NO_3^- and daily fluxes of GHG for each combination of floodwater type \times temperature. The same statistical analysis was applied to NH_4^+ and NO_3^- in floodwater with only two treatments (control and manure with flooding). When the differences were significant, a Bonferroni multiple comparison test at a probability level of 0.05 was used to identify differences between treatments with time.

Factorial ANOVA based on a completely randomized design with two factors (manure and temperature) was carried out for pH and EC in floodwater, potential loss of nutrients, and with three factors (flooding, manure and temperature) for cumulative GHG fluxes and total GWP at the end of the experiment, and PLFAs (total PLFAs, taxonomic groups and PLFA ratios), independently, for freshwater and saline water containers. In these cases, Tukey's HSD *post hoc* was used to identify treatment differences.

Principal component analysis (PCA) was used to explore relationships between fatty acid profiles (PLFAs), GHG daily fluxes, NH_4^+ and NO_3^- in soil solution, based on a data correlation matrix. Finally, Pearson correlations were carried out between these factors. All statistical analyses were performed using SPSS v22.0 (IBM Corp., Armonk, NY).

3. Results

3.1. Initial soil, water and manure properties

Soil and water properties are summarized in Table A.2. The soil was a sandy clay loam soil, with neutral pH, a high organic matter content ($78 \pm 5 \text{ g kg}^{-1}$) and available P content ($38 \pm 4 \text{ mg kg}^{-1}$), and a medium available K content ($122 \pm 11 \text{ mg kg}^{-1}$, Defra, 2010). The pH of the freshwater floodwater was lower than that of the saline floodwater, but the electrical conductivity of the saline floodwater was significantly greater, as expected. Although similar NO_3^- concentrations were found in both water types, NH_4^+ and P were considerably higher in the saline water (Table A.2). Manure properties are shown in Table A.3, where typical values for broiler litter can be seen (e.g. low C:N ratio; Edwards and Daniel, 1992).

3.2. Floodwater pH and electrical conductivity

Throughout the 11 week flood period the pH of the floodwaters remained relatively constant with few treatment effects apparent

Table 1

Factorial analysis for flood water pH and EC (mean \pm standard error, $n = 6$, 12 flooded recipients per type of flood water) as a function of the temperature and manure addition at day 1 and at the end of the flood stage (day 77) under the two different simulated conditions, freshwater and saline water. P is the P value for each factor and Treatment \times Manure is the P value of the interaction.

Factor		pH Day 1	Day 77	EC (mS cm ⁻¹) Day 1	Day 77
		Freshwater			
Temperature	6 °	7.30 ± 0.20	7.70 ± 0.09	0.18 ± 0.06	0.47 ± 0.17
	14 °	7.11 ± 0.16	7.85 ± 0.09	0.13 ± 0.03	0.39 ± 0.12
<i>P</i>		0.359	0.146	0.060	< 0.001
Manure	C	7.08 ± 0.19	7.72 ± 0.11	0.05 ± 0.01	0.10 ± 0.01
	M	7.33 ± 0.16	7.82 ± 0.07	0.25 ± 0.03	0.76 ± 0.05
<i>P</i>		0.245	0.316	< 0.001	< 0.001
	C x 6 °	6.92 ± 0.22	7.51 ± 0.05		0.08 ± 0.01
	C x 14 °	7.24 ± 0.32	7.94 ± 0.11		0.12 ± 0.01
	M x 6 °	7.68 ± 0.04	7.89 ± 0.04		0.86 ± 0.03
	M x 14 °	6.98 ± 0.09	7.76 ± 0.14		0.66 ± 0.01
Temperature x Manure		0.035	0.016	0.090	< 0.001
		Saline water			
Temperature	6 °	7.42 ± 0.04	7.43 ± 0.18	25.80 ± 1.50	30.78 ± 1.10
	14 °	7.41 ± 0.02	7.54 ± 0.26	27.52 ± 0.40	28.80 ± 0.35
<i>P</i>		0.669	0.148	0.226	0.002
Manure	C	7.36 ± 0.03	7.00 ± 0.06	28.00 ± 0.13	30.78 ± 1.10
	M	7.47 ± 0.02	7.97 ± 0.07	25.32 ± 1.40	28.80 ± 0.34
<i>P</i>		0.009	< 0.001	0.074	0.002
	C x 6 °		7.04 ± 0.12		33.17 ± 0.52
	C x 14 °		6.97 ± 0.05		28.40 ± 0.32
	M x 6 °		7.82 ± 0.03		28.40 ± 0.23
	M x 14 °		8.12 ± 0.06		29.20 ± 0.60
Temperature x Manure		0.187	0.032	0.210	< 0.001

(Table 1). Interactions between temperature and manure factors were found at the beginning and at the end of the flooding period for the fresh floodwater. The only major effect was the presence of manure which tended to increase floodwater pH relative to the control at both temperatures for saline water (no significant differences were found for freshwater). However, there was an interaction on day 77 due to the different effect that the temperature caused in the pH in presence and lack of manure ($p = 0.032$).

The EC of the floodwater in the freshwater treatments increased over time, particularly in the manure treatments (Table 1). The interaction observed at the end of the flood phase for the fresh floodwater ($p < 0.001$) was due to the different effect that the temperature caused in the EC in the mesocosms with and without manure. As expected, the EC of the saline floodwater was greater than that of the freshwater treatments (two orders of magnitude higher), and whilst significant differences were not seen at the beginning of the flood phase, an interaction occurred at the end of that phase ($p < 0.001$) when the control at 6 °C had the highest EC values).

3.3. Dynamics of NH_4^+ and NO_3^- during simulated river flooding

The temporal dynamics of NH_4^+ and NO_3^- in soil solution as a function of temperature, flooding and manure application are shown in Fig. 1. The NH_4^+ concentration was initially higher for treatments including broiler litter and remained so throughout the experiment. In comparison, temperature had relatively little effect on soil NH_4^+ levels. NH_4^+ concentrations in the overlying floodwater in the non-amended treatments remained $< 0.1 \text{ mg N l}^{-1}$ for the entire flood period, but increased from 10–40 mg N l^{-1} in the broiler litter treatments (data not shown). After floodwater removal, soil solution NH_4^+ concentrations remained high, declining very slightly over time in the manure treatments.

Soil solution NO_3^- concentrations were greater in the control treatments than the manure treatments at both temperatures at the start of the experiment. Nitrate concentrations then progressively declined in all treatments over the first 3 weeks. In the 6 °C treatments, soil solution NO_3^- concentrations remained low, even after the floodwater had been

removed. At 14 °C, soil solution NO_3^- concentration in the non-flooded manure treatment increased, particularly towards the end of the flooding period, at which point concentrations increased markedly, and continued to do so during the recovery period. Soil solution NO_3^- concentrations in the control non-flooded treatment also increased in the later stages of the flooding period. It was only on the last two measurement occasions (in the recovery phase), when the soil solution NO_3^- concentration in the flooded treatments started to increase (Figs. 1c, d).

Floodwater NO_3^- concentrations were initially greater in the control treatment compared to the manure treatment (negligible concentrations) at both temperatures (data not shown). Subsequently, NO_3^- concentrations in all floodwaters decreased to very low levels during the flooding period, with the rate of decrease being quicker at the higher temperature.

Overall, temperature did not have a significant effect on the potential for nutrient loss for the flooded treatments (Table 2). However, the addition of manure significantly increased the potential for NH_4^+ losses but decreased it for NO_3^- in comparison with treatments without manure (Table 2).

3.4. Dynamics of NH_4^+ and NO_3^- during simulated coastal flooding

The impact of simulated coastal flooding on soil solution NH_4^+ and NO_3^- concentrations is shown in Fig. 2. In general, soil solution NH_4^+ concentrations increased during the experiment, although there was a marked decrease for manure treatments at 14 °C around day 50 (Fig. 2b). Control and control + flood treatments also experienced a general increase in NH_4^+ in soil solution towards the end of the flood period (Figs. 2a and b). The NH_4^+ concentrations in the overlying floodwater in the non-amended treatments remained negligible for the entire flood period but increased from 40–65 mg l^{-1} in the manure treatments (data not shown).

An initial decrease in soil solution NO_3^- was observed for all treatments, and was more rapid at 14 °C than at 6 °C. The flooded manure treatment at 14 °C had the lowest soil NO_3^- concentration throughout the experiment (Figs. 2c and d). Some peaks were observed

Freshwater – Soil solution

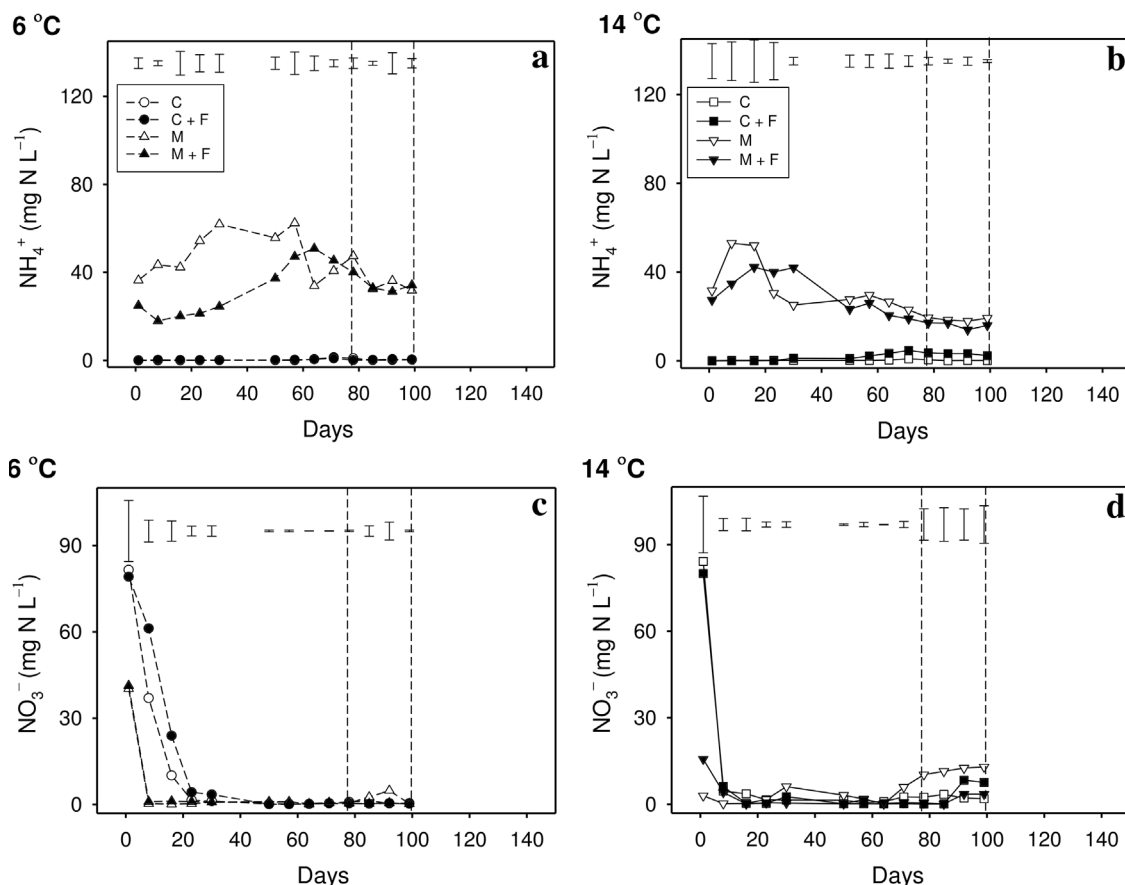


Fig. 1. Temporal dynamics (mean of three replicates per combination of factors) of NH_4^+ and NO_3^- in soil solution as a function of treatments and temperature under freshwater application. Vertical bars in the upper part of the figure represent Bonferroni values at $\alpha = 0.05$. The dashed vertical line before 80 days indicates the separation between flood stage (left) and soil recovery stage (right). The second dashed vertical line indicates the end of the soil recovery keeping soil moisture at field capacity. C: control (without manure); C+F: control + flood (without manure); M: manure application; M+F: manure application + flood.

Table 2

Factorial analysis of potential losses of nutrients (mean \pm standard error, $n = 6$, 12 flooded recipients per kind of water) as a function of the temperature and manure addition at the end of the experiment under the two different simulated conditions of flooding, freshwater and saline water. P is the P value for each factor and Treatment x Manure is the P value of the interaction.

Factor		NH_4^+ (g m^{-2})	NO_3^- (g m^{-2})
Freshwater			
Temperature	6 °	3.1 ± 1.4	3.2 ± 0.6
	14 °	3.3 ± 1.3	2.7 ± 0.7
P		0.621	0.149
Manure	C	0.2 ± 0.1	4.3 ± 0.3
	M	6.2 ± 1.9	1.6 ± 0.3
P		< 0.001	< 0.001
Temperature x Manure		0.849	0.338
Saline water			
Temperature	6 °	6.2 ± 2.1	3.2 ± 0.6
	14 °	6.7 ± 2.1	2.1 ± 0.8
P		0.091	0.043
Manure	C	1.8 ± 0.2	4.0 ± 1.7
	M	11.0 ± 0.2	1.4 ± 0.5
P		< 0.001	< 0.001
Temperature x Manure		0.780	0.181

C: control without manure; M: broiler litter application (9.1 ton ha^{-1}).

in soil solution NO_3^- for the control treatment at 6 °C, and there was a gradual increase in soil solution NO_3^- concentrations in the non-flooded control and manure treatments at 14 °C towards the end of the

flooding period, that continued into the recovery period. Similar to the freshwater flood treatments, NO_3^- concentrations in the overlying floodwater decreased during the flooding period (from 20 to $\approx 5 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$ at 6 °C, and from 24 to 18 mg l^{-1} at 14 °C) but were higher than those of the control treatment at both temperatures (almost negligible, data not shown).

The addition of manure increased the NH_4^+ loss potential, meanwhile the highest temperature (14 °C) and the application of manure reduced the values for potential losses of NO_3^- (Table 2).

3.5. Greenhouse gas emissions during simulated river flooding

Daily fluxes of CH_4 , CO_2 and N_2O are shown in Fig. 3. No CH_4 emissions were detectable from any treatment at 6 °C. However, there were clear peaks in CH_4 emissions towards the end of the flooding period and into the recovery phase (days 65–90) in the manure amended treatments, especially the flooded manure treatment. Subsequently, these fluxes decreased rapidly after floodwater removal (Fig. 3b). Peaks of daily CO_2 fluxes were detected in the flooded manure treatment as the CH_4 emissions declined during the recovery period at 14 °C (Fig. 3d). Finally, there were peaks in daily N_2O fluxes on the first (at 6 °C and 14 °C) and last days (at 6 °C) of the experiment for the non-flooded manure treatment (Figs. 3e and f). At 14 °C, additional N_2O fluxes were measured from the non-flooded manure treatment, especially after the soil was allowed to dry out in the recovery phase, when emissions were also seen for the flooded manure and flooded control treatments (Fig. 3f).

Saline water – Soil solution

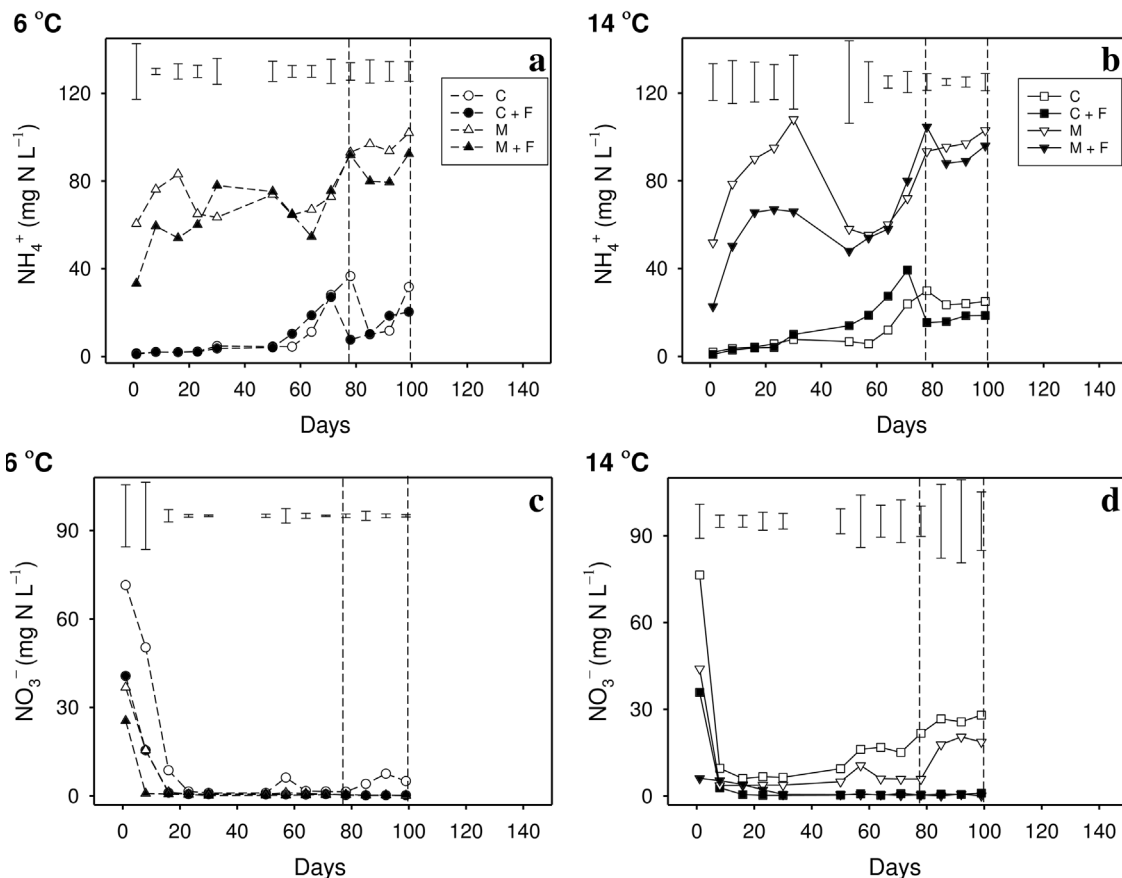


Fig. 2. Temporal dynamics (mean of three replicates per combination of factors) of NH_4^+ and NO_3^- in soil solution as a function of treatments and temperature under saline water application. Vertical bars in the upper part of the figure represent Bonferroni values at $\alpha = 0.05$. The dashed vertical line before 80 days indicates the separation between flood stage (left) and soil recovery stage (right). The second dashed vertical line indicates the end of the soil recovery keeping soil moisture at field capacity. C: control (without manure); C+F: control + flood (without manure); M: manure application; M+F: manure application + flood.

Cumulative CH_4 emissions (through the flooding and extended recovery phases) were increased by flooding, although cumulative CO_2 and N_2O emissions were lower (Table 3), such that the net cumulative GHG emission, expressed as CO_2 equivalent, was increased. Cumulative emissions of all GHGs (and therefore GWP) were increased at 14°C compared to 6°C , and GHG emissions were greater from manure-amended treatments. The multiple interactions were due to the different effects that flooding had on control and manure treatments: increased cumulative CH_4 fluxes when manure was applied but only at 14°C ; and reduced cumulative N_2O fluxes also when manure was applied at both temperatures (details in Fig. 3).

3.6. Greenhouse gas emissions during simulated coastal flooding

The daily fluxes of CH_4 , CO_2 and N_2O are shown in Fig. 4. The pattern of daily CH_4 fluxes was similar to those observed for the freshwater, with peaks in emissions towards the end of the flooding period from the manure treatments at the higher temperature (14°C). However, these fluxes were much smaller than measured from the freshwater flooding. CH_4 emissions decreased rapidly from the flooded manure treatment, once the floodwater was removed but the highest peak was reached immediately after water removal. Daily CO_2 fluxes remained low at 6°C from all treatments throughout the flooding phase (Fig. 4c), with some evidence of greater fluxes from the non-flooded manure treatment, especially after the soils were allowed to dry out in the extended recovery phase at both temperatures (Figs. 4c and d). Daily N_2O fluxes were also similar to those measured from the

freshwater treatments, with fluxes immediately after establishment of treatments at both temperatures. At 14°C there was a small peak in N_2O emission after the soil in the non-flooded manure treatment had been allowed to dry out in the recovery phase (Figs. 4e and f).

Flooding with saline water significantly reduced the cumulative CO_2 and N_2O fluxes (through the flooding and extended recovery phases), as well as total GHG emissions, expressed as CO_2 equivalents (Table 3). Temperature increased the three GHG cumulative fluxes and, consequently the GWP. Manure application also increased cumulative emissions of CH_4 and CO_2 emissions, but decreased the N_2O cumulative fluxes resulting in a non-significant effect on total GHG emissions, expressed as CO_2 equivalents (Table 3). There were some interactions between temperature and manure for cumulative CH_4 fluxes (manure increased this emissions only at 14°C , $p = 0.021$) and GWP ($p = 0.017$), and between flood and manure for cumulative CO_2 ($p = 0.008$) and N_2O ($p < 0.001$) fluxes (details in Fig. 4).

3.7. Soil microbial community changes during simulated river flooding

Table 4 shows the SMB and the percentage of each taxonomic group estimated by the PLFAs after the flooding and recovery stages. In general, a lower SMB was observed after the soil recovery stage. Flood and temperature had a negative effect on SMB but there was a positive effect of manure application, probably due to the microbial population in the manure. Flooding facilitated the proliferation of Gram + bacteria (after soil recovery), including actinomycetes (after flood stage), but reduced the presence of Gram – bacteria and putative AM fungi (after

Freshwater – GHG daily fluxes

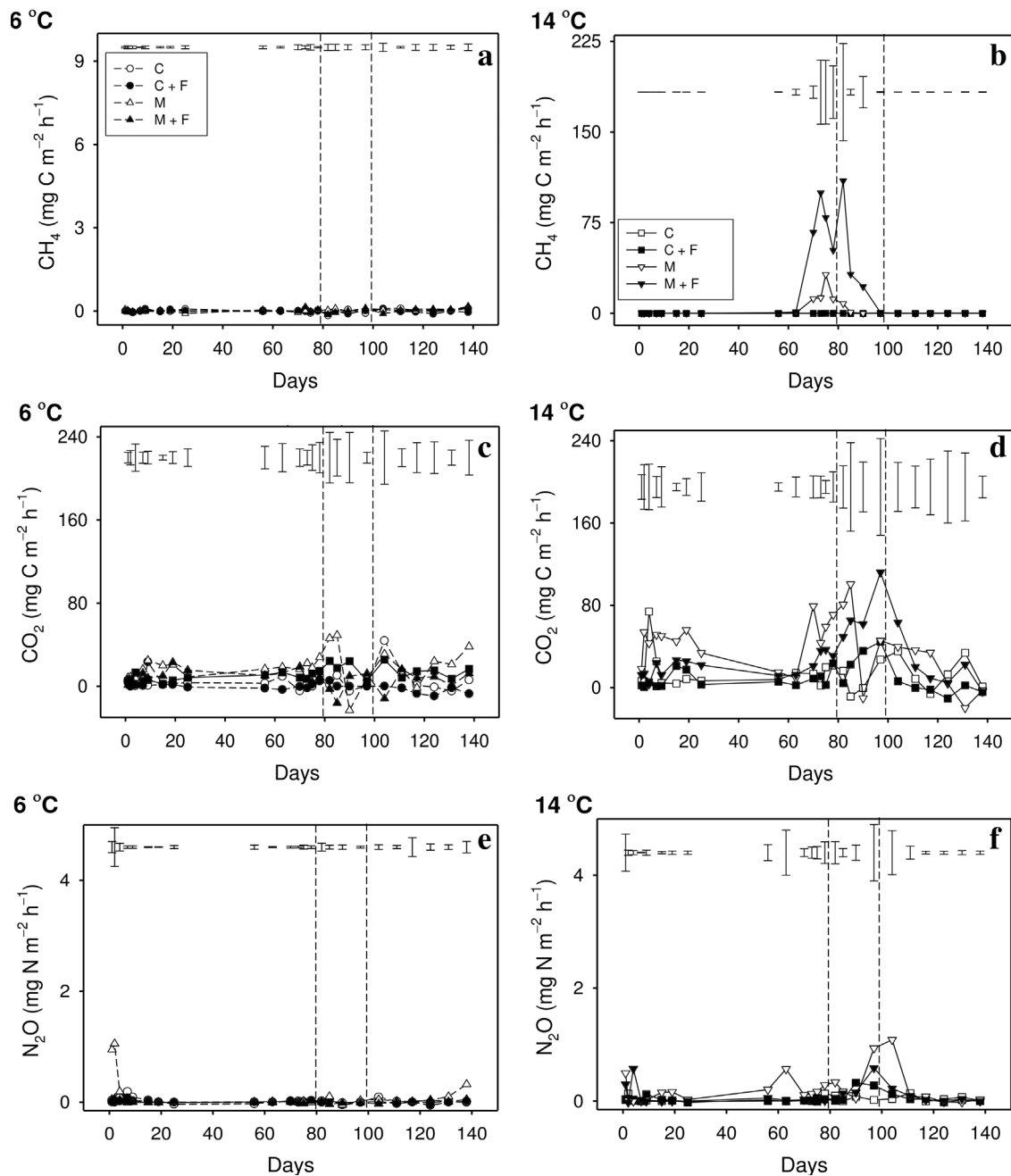


Fig. 3. Daily greenhouse gas fluxes (mean of three replicates per combination of factors) as a function of combination of factors for freshwater treatments. Vertical bars in the upper part of the figure represent Bonferroni values at $\alpha = 0.05$. The dashed vertical line before 80 days indicates the separation between flood stage (left) and soil recovery stage (right) and the dashed vertical line before 100 days, between soil recovery stage in which soil samples were kept at field capacity (left) and the last stage in which no water was added. C: control (without manure); C + F: control + flood (without manure); M: manure application; M + F: manure application + flood.

soil recovery). The highest temperature resulted in a decrease in the percentage of fungi after the flooding stage, and Gram + bacteria and anaerobes after soil recovery stage, but increased the proportion of actinomycetes. Gram – bacteria were altered by temperature in the opposite sense in each analysis. Finally, the broiler litter treatment resulted in reduced Gram + bacteria after both stages and actinomycetes after both stages, anaerobes and putative AM fungi after soil recovery, but increased Gram – bacteria and fungi after both stages (Table 4). These alterations in microbial structure were also reflected in some PLFA ratios (Table A.4).

Fig. 5 shows the PCA for the different taxonomic groups (based on PLFAs), daily GHG fluxes and nutrients in soil solution for the different

combinations of flood \times manure, the two temperatures (6 and 14 °C), and after the flood stage and the soil recovery stage. For 6 °C after the flooding stage (Fig. 5a), the differences between flooded and non-flooded (in this order) control treatments depended basically on putative AM fungi and actinomycetes, while flooded and non-flooded (in this order) manure treatments were more related to NH_4^+ , NO_3^- contents in soil solution and fungi. After the soil recovery phase (Fig. 5b), the differences between treatments were less evident but changes in the same taxonomic groups were observed and daily N_2O fluxes appeared to be more related to this in the non-flooded manure treatment. After the flood stage at 14 °C (Fig. 5c), changes in non-flooded control and flooded control treatments were more related to

Table 3

Factorial analysis for cumulative GHG fluxes and total global warming potential (GWP, expressed in g of CO₂ equivalents; mean \pm standard error, n = 12, 24 recipients per type of flood water) at the end of the experiment as a function of flood, temperature and manure under the two different simulated conditions, freshwater and saline water. *P* is the *P* value for each factor and the *P* values for the combination of factors is shown after Interactions (*P*).

Factor		CH ₄ g C m ⁻²	CO ₂ g C m ⁻²	N ₂ O g N m ⁻²	GWP g C-CO ₂ m ⁻²
Freshwater					
Flood	Non flood	1.2 \pm 0.9	53.8 \pm 10.5	0.25 \pm 0.08	167.7 \pm 53.0
	Flood	9.4 \pm 5.4	35.5 \pm 11.6	0.11 \pm 0.04	367.2 \pm 192.2
<i>P</i>		0.011	0.002	0.001	0.048
Temperature	6 °	0.02 \pm 0.02	22.8 \pm 7.4	0.06 \pm 0.02	41.3 \pm 13.2
	14 °	10.5 \pm 4.7	66.5 \pm 11.0	0.30 \pm 0.07	493.6 \pm 179.2
<i>P</i>		0.002	< 0.001	< 0.001	< 0.001
Manure	C	0.01 \pm 0.02	18.4 \pm 5.8	0.08 \pm 0.02	42.3 \pm 10.6
	M	10.6 \pm 5.3	70.9 \pm 10.1	0.28 \pm 0.08	492.7 \pm 179.6
<i>P</i>		0.002	< 0.001	< 0.001	< 0.001
Interactions (<i>P</i>)					
Flood x Temperature		0.011	0.211	0.488	0.013
Flood x Manure		0.011	0.858	0.002	0.033
Temperature x Manure		0.002	0.016	< 0.001	< 0.001
3 factors		0.012	0.812	0.031	0.023
Saline water					
Flood	Non flood	0.39 \pm 0.30	50.0 \pm 6.1	0.47 \pm 0.06	201.6 \pm 17.6
	Flood	0.26 \pm 0.14	20.7 \pm 7.1	0.15 \pm 0.03	72.3 \pm 10.6
<i>P</i>		0.542	< 0.001	< 0.001	< 0.001
Temperature	6 °	0.03 \pm 0.02	22.6 \pm 7.7	0.25 \pm 0.06	97.8 \pm 18.9
	14 °	0.62 \pm 0.26	48.0 \pm 10.3	0.36 \pm 0.07	176.1 \pm 23.4
<i>P</i>		0.012	< 0.001	< 0.001	< 0.001
Manure	C	0.02 \pm 0.02	12.1 \pm 4.1	0.43 \pm 0.07	142.1 \pm 23.9
	M	0.63 \pm 0.26	58.5 \pm 8.9	0.18 \pm 0.04	131.8 \pm 24.6
<i>P</i>		0.010	< 0.001	< 0.001	0.324
Interactions (<i>P</i>)					
Flood x Temperature		0.325	0.820	0.407	0.167
Flood x Manure		0.484	0.008	< 0.001	0.187
Temperature x Manure		0.021	0.160	0.723	0.017
3 factors		0.374	0.991	0.272	0.156

C: control without manure; M: broiler litter application (9.1 ton ha⁻¹).

AM fungi, actinomycetes, Gram + bacteria and NO₃⁻ in soil solution. The non-flooded manure treatment depended on shifts in protozoa, fungi, Gram – bacteria and high concentrations in NH₄⁺ in soil solution and the flooded manure with daily CH₄ fluxes. Daily N₂O and CO₂ fluxes were important for one of the non-flooded manure samples. As occurred at 6 °C, the differences due to the effect of the flooding were less clear after the soil recovery (Fig. 5d).

NH₄⁺ in soil solution was positively correlated with 16:1w7c (r = 0.43, P = 0.035) and negatively with 16:0 10 methyl (r = -0.49, P = 0.014) after the flood stage. Positive correlations between daily CO₂ / N₂O fluxes and several fatty acids were found after soil recovery stage (total PLFAs, 15:0 anteiso, 16:1 w7c, 16:0, 17:0 cyclo w7c, 18:1 w9c, 18:1 w7c and 18:0 10 methyl). Additional correlations between daily GHG emissions and soil nutrients were also observed: NH₄⁺ was negatively correlated with NO₃⁻ (r = -0.47, P = 0.022, after the flood stage, and r = -0.40, P = 0.052, after the soil recovery) in soil solution, and positively with CO₂ (r = 0.61, P = 0.002) and N₂O (r = 0.50, P = 0.014) fluxes, after the flooding stage. Daily CO₂ and N₂O fluxes were highly positively correlated (r = 0.87, P < 0.001) after the flood stage. After the soil recovery stage, CH₄-CO₂ (r = 0.50, P = 0.005) and N₂O-CO₂ (r = 0.64, P < 0.001) were also positively correlated.

3.8. Soil microbial community changes during simulated coastal flooding

The SMB was higher after the flooding stage than after the soil recovery stage (Table 5). In addition, the SMB was reduced by saline water flooding and at the highest temperature (14 °C). Flooding increased the content of putative AM fungi (after both stages) but reduced protozoa after soil recovery. The highest temperature decreased the percentage of anaerobes (after soil recovery), putative AM fungi (after both stages) and protozoa (after soil recovery) and increased the

content of Gram – bacteria (after soil recovery stage); Gram + bacteria were altered in the opposite sense in each case. Lastly, broiler litter addition reduced Gram + bacteria, actinomycetes, anaerobes and AM fungi after both stages, and protozoa after flooding stage, but increased the proportion of Gram – bacteria and fungi after both stages (Table 5). Changes in some PLFAs ratios are shown in Table A.4.

The PCA for the saline water mesocosms is shown in Fig. 6. After the flood stage at 6 °C (Fig. 6a), non-flooded control and flooded controls treatments (no clear differences between them) were related with NO₃⁻ in soil solution, putative AM fungi, protozoa and fungi. On the other hand, NH₄⁺ in soil solution, actinomycetes, daily CO₂ flux and anaerobes were more related to both the flooded manure and the non-flooded manure treatments (in this order). After the soil recovery stage at 6 °C (Fig. 6b), non-flooded manure treatment and flooded manure treatments (in this order) were related to putative AM fungi, actinomycetes, anaerobes and Gram + bacteria, and non-flooded control and flooded control treatments (no differences between them) to CO₂ and Gram – bacteria. Fungi and daily CH₄ fluxes were important to differentiate between flooded and non-flooded manure treatments. Daily N₂O fluxes were related with the flooded and non-flooded control treatments.

In the case of 14 °C after the flood stage (Fig. 6c), non-flooded control and flooded control treatments (no differences between them) were more related with Gram + bacteria, anaerobes, actinomycetes, daily N₂O fluxes and NO₃⁻ in soil solution. The non-flooded manure treatment was best explained by changes in fungi, protozoa, daily CO₂ fluxes and NH₄⁺ in soil solution and in the flooded manure treatment by Gram – bacteria, NH₄⁺ in soil solution and to a lesser extent with daily CH₄ fluxes. After soil recovery (Fig. 6d) the results were quite similar to those obtained after the soil flood stage but the differences between non-flooded manure and flooded manure were less evident. Note the lack of effect of CH₄ fluxes.

Saline water – GHG daily fluxes

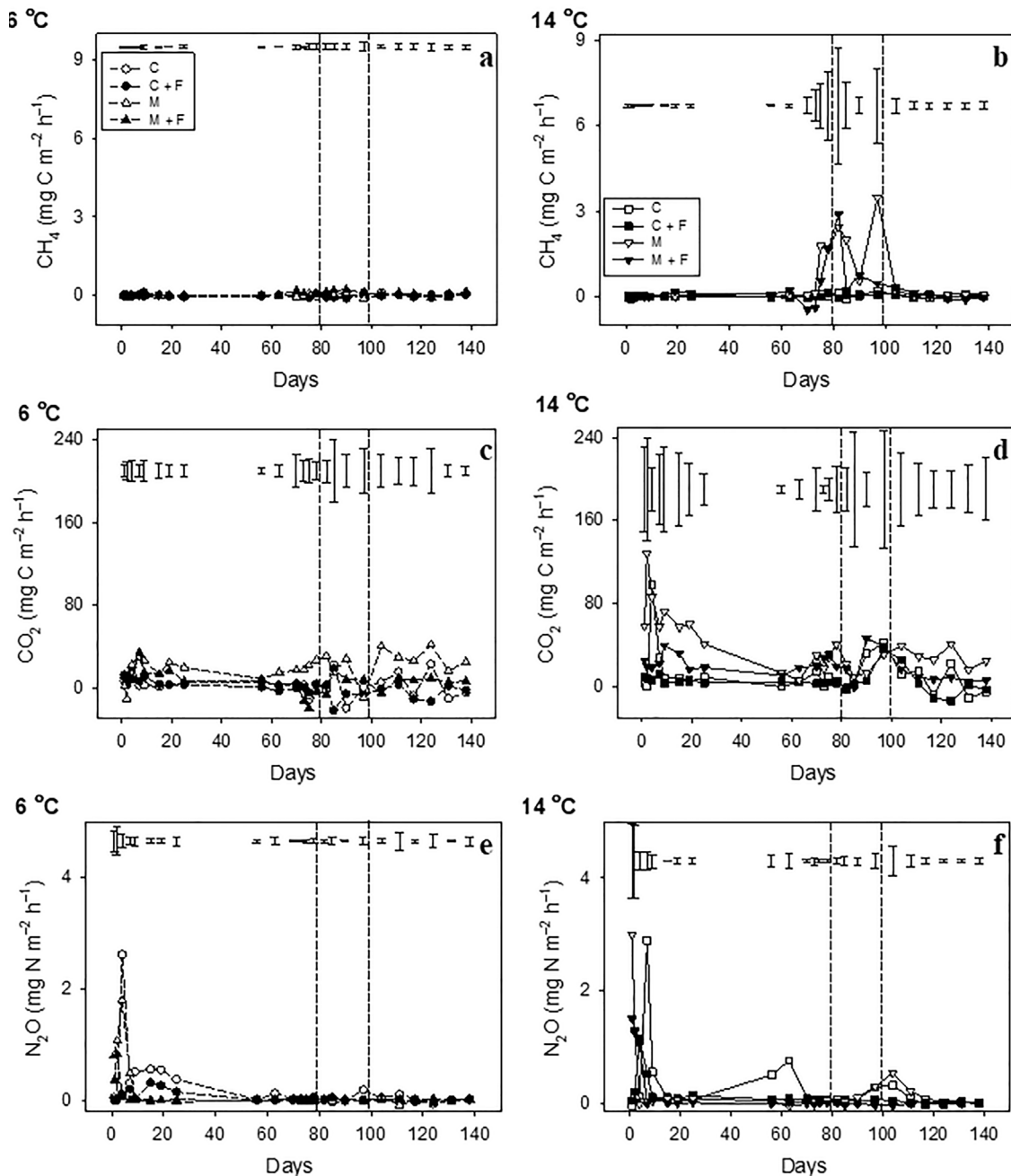


Fig. 4. Daily greenhouse gas fluxes (mean of three replicates per combination of factors) as a function of combination of factors for saline water treatments. Vertical bars in the upper part of the figure represent Bonferroni values at $\alpha = 0.05$. The dashed vertical line before 80 days indicates the separation between flood stage (left) and soil recovery stage (right) and the dashed vertical line before 100 days, between soil recovery stage in which soil samples were kept at field capacity (left) and the last stage in which no water was added. C: control (without manure); C+F: control + flood (without manure); M: manure application; M+F: manure application + flood.

Besides a negative correlation between NH_4^+ in soil solution and 16:0 10 methyl fatty acid ($r = -0.44$, $P = 0.033$) and a positive one between NO_3^- and 16:0 iso ($r = 0.41$, $P = 0.045$) found after flood stage, positive correlations between CO_2 fluxes and two fatty acids, 16:1w7c ($r = 0.41$, $P = 0.045$) and 18:1w7c ($r = 0.43$, $P = 0.037$), and N_2O and 16:0 fatty acid ($r = 0.47$, $P = 0.021$) after soil recovery stage, were found. Furthermore, $\text{NH}_4^+ - \text{NO}_3^-$ were negatively correlated after the flood stage ($r = -0.40$, $P = 0.052$), and $\text{CH}_4 - \text{CO}_2$ ($r = 0.52$, $P = 0.010$) and $\text{CO}_2 - \text{N}_2\text{O}$ ($r = 0.83$, $P < 0.001$) positively correlated after the soil recovery stage.

4. Discussion

4.1. Impact of flood type on soil and water chemistry

In most cases, the pH and EC of the floodwater and soil increased with time, although these effects were relatively small. As pH affects many soil processes and represents a major soil quality indicator, it suggests that pH may be an insensitive indicator of the damage caused by flooding. Our results, using a close-to-neutral soil (pH 6.92, Table A.2), agree with Ponnampetuma (1972) who also showed that the pH of acidic soils increases under flooding due to the consumption of protons in reduction processes (i.e. $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_3 \rightarrow \text{Fe}^{2+}$, $\text{MnO}_2 \rightarrow \text{Mn}^{2+}$). This effect

Table 4

Factorial analysis of the total amount of PLFAs and taxonomic groups (mean \pm standard error, $n = 12$, 24 recipients per type of flood water) after the flood and soil recovery stages for freshwater treatments. P is the P value for each factor and the P values for the combination of factors is shown after Interactions (P).

Factor		PLFA (nmol g ⁻¹)	Gram + (%)	Gram – (%)	Actinomycetes (%)	Anaerobe (%)	AM Fungi (%)	Protozoa (%)	Fungi (%)
After flood stage									
Flood	Non flood	224.5 \pm 8.2	26.5 \pm 0.3	48.1 \pm 0.7	16.3 \pm 0.50	1.45 \pm 0.08	4.44 \pm 0.12	2.27 \pm 0.17	1.00 \pm 0.13
	Flood	169.3 \pm 9.3	26.7 \pm 0.3	47.4 \pm 0.5	16.6 \pm 0.3	1.61 \pm 0.08	4.44 \pm 0.10	2.30 \pm 0.16	0.91 \pm 0.15
P		< 0.001	0.415	0.051	0.016	0.167	0.966	0.887	0.433
Temperature	6 °	214.0 \pm 12.9	26.8 \pm 0.3	47.2 \pm 0.5	16.6 \pm 0.4	1.53 \pm 0.08	4.49 \pm 0.13	2.28 \pm 0.17	1.14 \pm 0.17
	14 °	180.0 \pm 8.5	26.4 \pm 0.4	48.3 \pm 0.7	16.3 \pm 0.43	1.54 \pm 0.09	4.39 \pm 0.08	2.28 \pm 0.16	0.77 \pm 0.07
P		< 0.001	0.182	0.005	0.085	0.890	0.058	0.980	0.005
Manure	C	181.1 \pm 12.7	27.1 \pm 0.2	46.1 \pm 0.1	17.8 \pm 0.1	1.59 \pm 0.06	4.75 \pm 0.06	2.13 \pm 0.08	0.63 \pm 0.02
	M	212.7 \pm 9.3	26.1 \pm 0.4	49.4 \pm 0.5	15.1 \pm 0.2	1.47 \pm 0.10	4.13 \pm 0.04	2.43 \pm 0.21	1.28 \pm 0.14
P		< 0.001	0.005	< 0.001	< 0.001	0.299	< 0.001	0.169	< 0.001
Interactions (P)									
Flood x Temperature		0.113	0.899	0.084	0.116	0.022	0.004	0.086	0.444
Flood x Manure		0.003	0.249	0.013	< 0.001	0.434	0.032	0.768	0.329
Temperature x Manure		0.409	< 0.001	< 0.001	0.815	0.334	0.002	0.278	0.017
3 factors		0.620	0.221	0.423	0.013	0.655	0.011	0.067	0.679
After soil recovery									
Flood	Non flood	139.6 \pm 3.9	25.4 \pm 0.4	48.4 \pm 0.8	16.8 \pm 0.4	1.41 \pm 0.07	4.62 \pm 0.09	2.26 \pm 0.13	1.04 \pm 0.08
	Flood	131.8 \pm 2.5	25.8 \pm 0.3	48.0 \pm 0.6	17.1 \pm 0.3	1.49 \pm 0.07	4.39 \pm 0.11	2.23 \pm 0.10	1.03 \pm 0.09
P		0.015	0.028	< 0.001	0.109	0.154	0.001	0.837	0.892
Temperature	6 °	143.3 \pm 3.3	25.9 \pm 0.3	48.3 \pm 0.7	16.6 \pm 0.4	1.56 \pm 0.04	4.51 \pm 0.10	2.12 \pm 0.09	0.99 \pm 0.10
	14 °	128.0 \pm 1.7	25.4 \pm 0.4	48.1 \pm 0.7	17.3 \pm 0.3	1.34 \pm 0.07	4.49 \pm 0.11	2.37 \pm 0.12	1.07 \pm 0.08
P		< 0.001	0.003	0.027	< 0.001	< 0.001	0.735	0.158	0.311
Manure	C	132.2 \pm 3.1	26.6 \pm 0.1	46.0 \pm 0.1	18.1 \pm 0.1	1.59 \pm 0.03	4.78 \pm 0.03	2.22 \pm 0.09	0.79 \pm 0.05
	M	139.1 \pm 3.6	24.7 \pm 0.3	50.4 \pm 0.3	15.8 \pm 0.2	1.31 \pm 0.07	4.22 \pm 0.08	2.27 \pm 0.13	1.27 \pm 0.05
P		0.027	< 0.001	< 0.001	< 0.001	< 0.001	< 0.001	0.734	< 0.001
Interactions (P)									
Flood x Temperature		0.049	0.004	< 0.001	0.349	0.563	0.005	0.549	0.460
Flood x Manure		0.384	0.009	< 0.001	0.100	0.692	0.356	0.486	0.541
Temperature x Manure		0.439	< 0.001	< 0.001	0.002	0.007	0.869	0.232	0.335
3 factors		0.164	0.005	< 0.001	0.676	0.446	0.040	0.445	0.985

C: control without manure; M: broiler litter application (9.1 ton ha⁻¹)

was more apparent in the manure treatments, presumably as its addition stimulated microbial activity, enhanced O₂ depletion and induced greater reduction of metal oxyhydroxides.

Elevated soil solution NH₄⁺ concentrations in the manure-amended soils were attributable to the high uric acid and NH₄⁺ content in the broiler litter (Table A.3). This was more obvious when saline water was applied to the soil, possibly due to competition from high levels of added Na⁺ (459 mM), preventing NH₄⁺ sorption to soil cation exchange sites. Although not shown by our data, the high soil salinity may have been cytotoxic, reducing the rate of microbial N immobilization (Azam and Ifzal, 2006). It is also well established that nitrification can be interrupted under anaerobic conditions (Nielsen et al., 1996), facilitating the accumulation of NH₄⁺ in soil and its diffusion into the overlying floodwater. It is notable that the concentrations of NH₄⁺ accumulated in our manure amended soils (ca. 3 mM) was within the range known to repress root growth in crops such as *Arabidopsis thaliana* (Liu et al., 2013), particularly when NO₃⁻ concentrations are very low (Zheng et al., 2015). This suggests that the flooded fields should be left for a few weeks before attempting crop establishment to allow any excess NH₄⁺ to be nitrified. After floodwater removal and soil drying, the accumulated NH₄⁺ may also result in excessive discharge of NH₃ in high pH soils and this warrants further investigation. Further, after O₂ is reintroduced into the soil a significant release of N₂O may occur as a result of nitrification and denitrification processes, particularly in soils close to field capacity (Nielsen et al., 1996). Despite these potential negative effects, any N accumulated during an extreme flood event could be useful for plant growth and should be accounted for prior to applying fertilizers.

Evidence of nitrification (increases in NO₃⁻ and associated N₂O emissions) was observed for the unflooded treatments (control and/or manure) at both temperatures and for both types of floodwater during the experiment. For the flooded treatments, nitrification was only

detected at the end of the soil recovery stage in the case of freshwater, because this process is typically inhibited by the high water content (low oxygen status) of the soil. The absence of nitrification in saline flooded soils after water removal could be due to the negative effect of salts on the microbial community that facilitates the accumulation of NH₄⁺ in the soil solution in all cases (Blood et al., 1991). Nitrification is favoured at higher temperatures (with an optimum at 25–35 °C; Focht and Verstraete, 1977); thereby, explaining the greater NO₃⁻ concentrations observed at 14 °C during the 30–100 day period for unflooded treatments. Denitrification usually occurs in anoxic conditions and could explain the decrease in NO₃⁻ concentrations in the floodwater of flooded control treatments during the flood stage.

4.2. Greenhouse gas emissions during simulated flooding

Broiler litter represents a labile source of C and N for the microbial community and, therefore, a potential source of GHG emissions (Chadwick et al., 2011). The fluxes of CH₄ were only of significance for the non-flooded and flooded treatments at 14 °C in which broiler litter was applied, being higher for soils flooded with freshwater than those inundated with saline water (different orders of magnitude although no statistical analysis was done to compare them). These emissions are directly related to the decomposition of organic matter under anaerobic, highly reducing conditions (Bastone and Keller, 2003). The lack of CH₄ emissions under the lower temperature regime probably reflects the reduced rates of microbial activity and the presence of other more microbially-favourable terminal electron acceptors remaining in the soil (NO₃⁻, Fe³⁺; Le Mer and Roger, 2007). The occurrence of CH₄ emissions in the unflooded soils amended with manure indicated the presence of anaerobic zones, despite these treatments being maintained at field capacity. A similar effect was also observed when livestock slurry was injected into an aerated soil (Flessa and Beese, 2000).

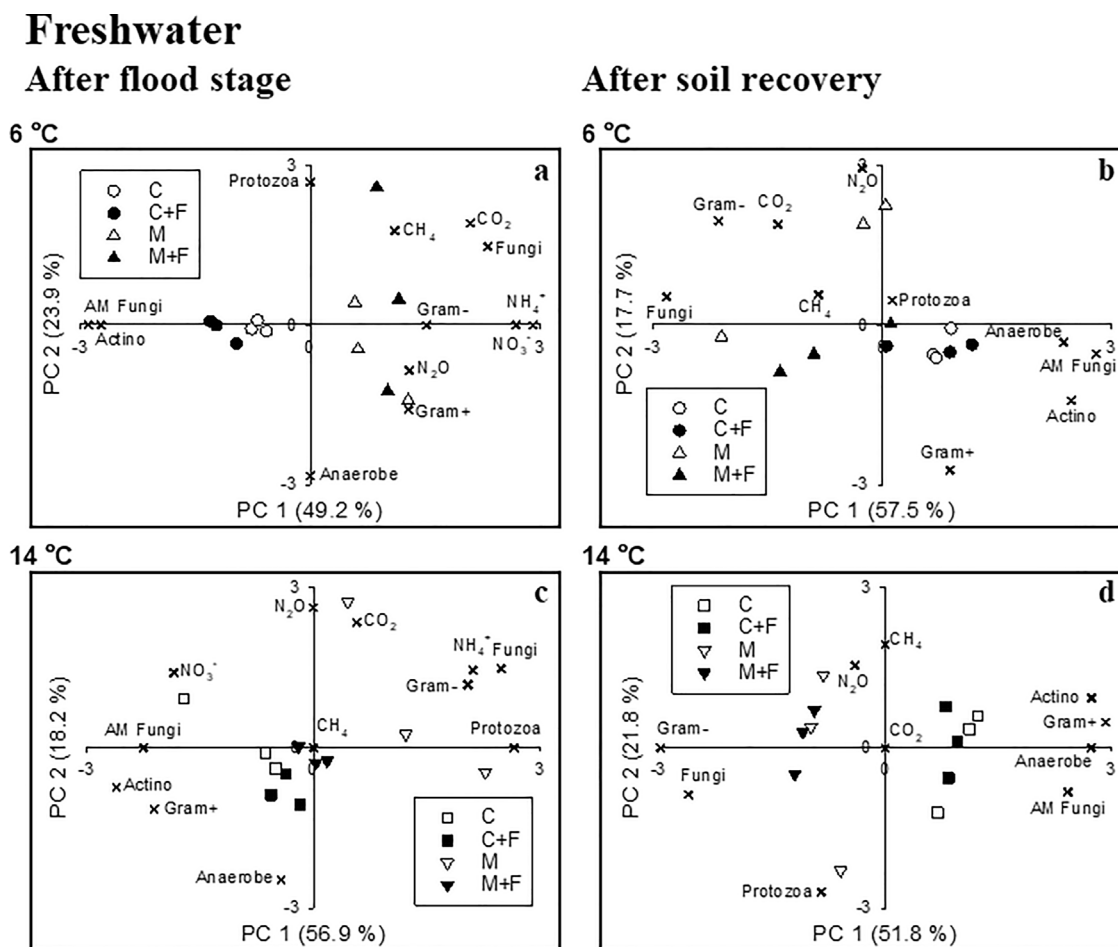


Fig. 5. Principal component analysis for PLFAs (taxonomic groups), daily GHG emissions, and nutrients in soil solution (NH_4^+ , NO_3^-) after flood stage and after soil recovery stage as a function of the combinations of factors for freshwater treatments after the flood stage and after the soil recovery stage. The separation between treatments is shown at the left and the corresponding loading of each variable included in the PCA at the right. C: control (without manure); C+F: control + flood (without manure); M: manure application; M+F: manure application + flood; circles and triangles are used for 6 °C, and squares and inverted triangles for 14 °C; empty symbols for unflooded soils and full symbols for flooded soils. The percentage of total variance explained by each principal component (PC) is shown in brackets.

Alternatively, the CH_4 release from soil after flood removal could be due to the slow release of CH_4 previously trapped within the soil pore network as drying progresses (van der Gon et al., 1996).

The production of CH_4 requires a strong negative redox potential in soil (lower than -100 mV), which is expected after several weeks of flooding, and in the presence of labile C (Hou et al., 2000). This is consistent with the highest CH_4 daily fluxes being detected at the end of the flood phase when alternative electronic acceptors have probably been exhausted (e.g. NO_3^- , Fe^{3+} , SO_4^{2-}). The different order of magnitude in CH_4 release observed for the two types of flooding could be explained by the negative effect of the salinity on the functioning of the microbial community (Blood et al., 1991), however, it is more likely that it is due to the high concentration of SO_4^{2-} in seawater (28 mM) favouring sulphate reduction ($\text{SO}_4^{2-} \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{S}$) over methanogenesis ($\text{CO}_2 \rightarrow \text{CH}_4$). CH_4 emissions were not detected when the soil moisture became drier (near 100 days of the experiment), indicating that aerobic conditions prevailed in those soils.

Total CO_2 emissions were negatively affected by flooding and responded positively to temperature and manure application, factors that are known to directly influence the microbial turnover of soil organic matter. Indeed there was a clear increase in daily CO_2 fluxes after the flooding stage at 14 °C (quicker in freshwater than saline water), as CH_4 fluxes decreased, indicating the recovery of aerobic microbial activity as the soil oxygen status increased again. In addition, methanotrophy may have marginally contributed to the increased release of CO_2 after water removal (Zhang et al., 2012).

In our experiment, denitrification processes were most likely responsible for the very low NO_3^- concentrations in solution and the increased N_2O emissions at the beginning of the experiment (lower NO_3^- concentrations than the respective non-flooded treatments; Hou et al., 2000). The existence of peaks of N_2O emissions observed at the beginning of the flood phase are in line with Hansen et al. (2014), who stated that these emissions are underestimated in agricultural soils under anaerobic conditions. Once oxygen was reintroduced to the soil, nitrification recommenced, promoting NO_3^- accumulation and N_2O emissions in previously flooded treatments.

4.3. Soil microbial community changes during simulated flooding

In line with previous studies, the PLFA biomarker approach proved useful to indicate the effects of prolonged flooding on soil microbial community structure (Bossio and Scow, 1998; Ferré et al., 2012). The quantity of soil microorganisms and the structure (also ratios) of the microbial community (PLFAs) varied as a function of fresh or saline water application. Fierer et al. (2003) stated that microorganisms are strongly affected by soil water content, temperature and organic matter among other parameters. Our results suggest that important changes in soil microbial community occurred due to extreme flooding (80 d of inundation) and that these changes persisted after flooding (observed more than 60 d of soil recovery). Unger et al. (2009) suggested that these changes are proportional to the time that floodwater remains on the soil. The decrease in microbial biomass at the end of the experiment

Table 5

Factorial analysis of the total amount of PLFAs and taxonomic groups (mean \pm standard error, $n = 12$, 24 recipients per type of flood water) after the flooding and recovery stages for saline water treatments. P is the P value for each factor and the P values for the combination of factors is shown after Interactions (P).

Factor		PLFA (nmol g ⁻¹)	Gram + (%)	Gram – (%)	Actinomycetes (%)	Anaerobe (%)	AM Fungi (%)	Protozoa (%)	Fungi (%)
After flood stage									
Flood	Non flood	178.2 \pm 8.3	28.5 \pm 0.3	45.5 \pm 0.7	17.1 \pm 0.4	1.74 \pm 0.08	3.97 \pm 0.09	2.03 \pm 0.15	1.26 \pm 0.17
	Flood	142.1 \pm 7.0	28.1 \pm 0.2	46.4 \pm 0.6	16.7 \pm 0.4	1.71 \pm 0.09	4.12 \pm 0.06	1.96 \pm 0.10	1.07 \pm 0.12
P		< 0.001	0.096	0.085	0.162	0.647	0.011	0.627	0.080
Temperature	6 °	177.7 \pm 8.3	28.1 \pm 0.2	45.8 \pm 0.6	17.1 \pm 0.3	1.66 \pm 0.09	4.25 \pm 0.04	1.93 \pm 0.11	1.22 \pm 0.12
	14 °	142.5 \pm 7.2	28.5 \pm 0.2	46.0 \pm 0.7	16.6 \pm 0.5	1.78 \pm 0.07	3.85 \pm 0.07	2.05 \pm 0.15	1.11 \pm 0.17
P		< 0.001	0.042	0.707	0.132	0.075	< 0.001	0.375	0.292
Manure	C	161.8 \pm 10.6	28.8 \pm 0.2	44.1 \pm 0.2	18.1 \pm 0.1	1.91 \pm 0.05	4.17 \pm 0.06	2.15 \pm 0.05	0.79 \pm 0.03
	M	158.4 \pm 7.9	27.8 \pm 0.2	47.8 \pm 0.4	15.6 \pm 0.3	1.53 \pm 0.07	3.93 \pm 0.09	1.83 \pm 0.16	1.55 \pm 0.14
P		0.609	< 0.001	< 0.001	< 0.001	< 0.001	< 0.001	0.030	< 0.001
Interactions (P)									
Flood x Temperature		0.555	0.309	0.540	0.723	0.563	0.039	0.060	0.004
Flood x Manure		0.002	0.100	0.923	0.983	0.874	0.163	0.100	0.086
Temperature x Manure		0.832	0.346	0.633	0.159	0.180	0.447	0.065	0.662
3 factors		0.648	0.063	0.590	0.674	0.001	0.177	0.021	0.015
After soil recovery									
Flood	Non flood	126.2 \pm 4.2	27.5 \pm 0.5	47.3 \pm 1.1	16.7 \pm 0.6	1.54 \pm 0.11	3.59 \pm 0.12	2.19 \pm 0.10	1.30 \pm 0.19
	Flood	116.8 \pm 2.7	27.0 \pm 0.4	48.4 \pm 1.1	16.3 \pm 0.6	1.54 \pm 0.07	3.72 \pm 0.14	1.92 \pm 0.10	1.11 \pm 0.12
P		0.050	0.308	0.151	0.311	0.982	0.041	0.034	0.298
Temperature	6 °	127.9 \pm 2.7	27.8 \pm 0.2	46.3 \pm 0.7	16.7 \pm 0.5	1.62 \pm 0.09	3.98 \pm 0.09	2.28 \pm 0.08	1.36 \pm 0.17
	14 °	115.2 \pm 3.8	26.7 \pm 0.5	49.4 \pm 1.3	16.3 \pm 0.7	1.45 \pm 0.08	3.33 \pm 0.09	1.84 \pm 0.09	1.05 \pm 0.14
P		0.012	0.011	< 0.001	0.287	0.025	< 0.001	0.002	0.093
Manure	C	122.7 \pm 4.0	28.2 \pm 0.2	44.9 \pm 0.3	18.3 \pm 0.1	1.77 \pm 0.04	3.88 \pm 0.08	2.11 \pm 0.09	0.87 \pm 0.11
	M	120.4 \pm 3.6	26.3 \pm 0.4	50.8 \pm 0.9	14.7 \pm 0.4	1.30 \pm 0.07	3.43 \pm 0.14	2.01 \pm 0.13	1.53 \pm 0.15
P		0.615	< 0.001	< 0.001	< 0.001	< 0.001	< 0.001	0.419	0.002
Interactions (P)									
Flood x Temperature		0.313	0.328	0.206	0.059	0.014	0.042	0.934	0.596
Flood x Manure		0.225	0.608	0.959	0.870	0.429	0.085	0.088	0.161
Temperature x Manure		0.465	0.046	0.100	0.212	0.780	0.054	0.939	0.466
3 factors		0.867	0.466	0.872	0.246	0.233	0.025	0.943	0.607

C: control without manure; M: broiler litter application (9.1 ton ha⁻¹).

could be explained according to de Groot and Van Wijk (1993) because the soil became drier. In addition, and as expected, flooding had negative consequences for PLFAs in both cases (after flood and recovery phases) (Unger et al., 2009).

The increase in PLFA markers for Gram + bacteria (Zelles, 1999), including actinomycetes (branched fatty acids), and the decrease in Gram – bacteria (monounsaturated fatty acids) under flooding with freshwater agree with Bossio and Scow (1998) and Bai et al. (2000), respectively. This also affected the ratio of Gram +/Gram – (Table A.4). Gram + bacteria are assumed to be more resistant to stress (Guckert et al., 1985), but in our experiment their concentration was not altered by flood in the saline water treatments. Flooding increased the amount of putative AM fungi in the case of saline water. This was surprising, given the fact that no plants were growing in the soil and lends further credibility to the assumption that the PLFA markers for putative AM fungi (albeit very widely used) are not very specific (Sharma and Buyer, 2015). Further, work is clearly required to critically test these PLFA markers against specific molecular markers for AM fungi. Our results also indicated that soil fungal biomass was not significantly reduced in spite of previous studies showing them to be negatively affected by flooding (Bossio and Scow, 1995).

The variable effect that the temperature had on the percentage of the different taxonomic groups after the flood stage contrasts with the general decrease observed in the majority of groups associated with the dry soil at 14 °C at the end of the soil recovery stage. These decreases were compensated by an increase in the percentages of Gram – bacteria, which were more abundant in aerobic conditions for freshwater treatments (Guckert et al., 1985), and in actinomycetes for saline water treatments. The percentages of Gram – bacteria and fungi were increased by poultry manure addition, in contrast with the decrease observed in the majority of the taxonomic groups for the two kind of flooding. This is because aerobic heterotrophs are known to use

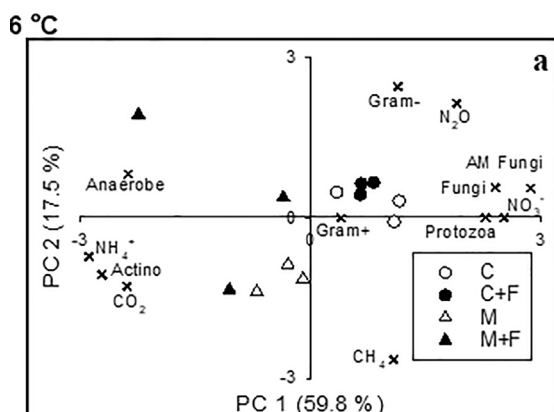
organic substrates more efficiently than anaerobic microorganisms (Baldwin and Mitchell, 2000). The percentages of anaerobic bacteria (anaerobes) were reduced when the oxic conditions replaced anoxic ones, as previously reported by Lynch and Hobbie (1988). The high manure nutrient content and its own intrinsic microbial community are plausible reasons of the increase in total microbial biomass after its application in freshwater treatments. Toyota and Kuninaga (2006) found that repeated applications of manure generated a new soil microbial community, however, in this experiment the microbial community significantly changed after only one application of broiler litter.

The precursor/cyclopropane fatty acids ratios as indicators of stress are described to decrease at low O₂ availability and higher temperature (Knivett and Cullen, 1965). In our results, it was observed only for temperature, especially after the soil recovery stage (Table A.4). Our results, in which the precursor/cyclopropane ratios were higher after flood stage for flooded soils treated with saline water, are different to those detailed in Knivett and Cullen (1965).

The soils treated with manure were more associated with lower PLFA concentrations, Gram – bacteria (especially in freshwater), higher GHG emissions, higher NH₄⁺ and lower NO₃⁻ concentrations after flooding than their non-flooded counterparts. The positive correlations between total PLFAs and some fatty acids, and daily CO₂/N₂O emissions after the soil recovery phase in freshwater treatments are evidence of microbial processes, such as nitrification. The differences between treatments were less evident after the soil recovery phase, indicating that the soil microbial community may have recovered to some extent.

Between the fatty acids that were detected in our soil samples, we found biomarkers of methanotrophs: type I (16:1 w7c). These are also found in ammonia-oxidizing bacteria (Bedard and Knowles, 1989) that participate in the nitrification process (Kowalchuk and Stephen, 2001). In our experiment they were positively correlated with the soil solution

Saline water After flood stage



After soil recovery

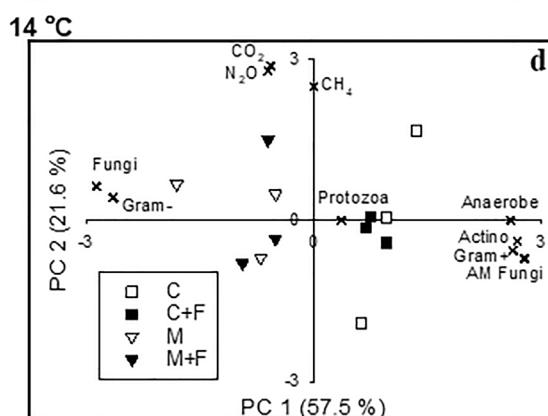
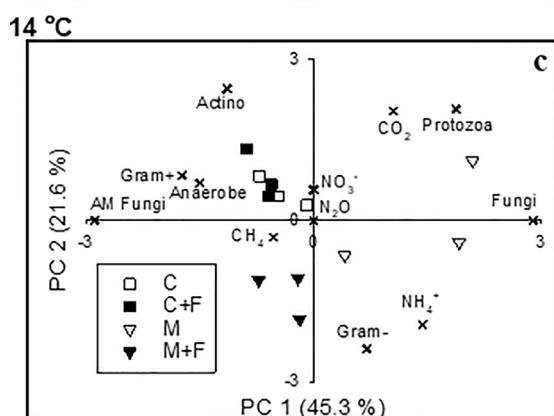
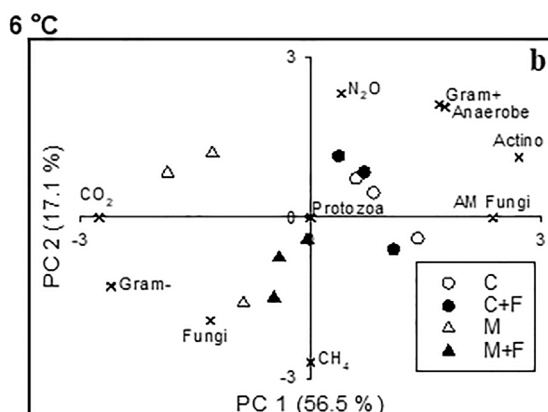


Fig. 6. Principal component analysis for PLFAs (taxonomic groups), daily GHG emissions, and nutrients in soil solution (NH_4^+ , NO_3^-) after flood stage and after the soil recovery stage as a function of the combinations of factors for saline water treatments after the flood stage and after the soil recovery stage. The separation between treatments is shown at the left and the corresponding loading of each variable included in the PCA at the right. C: control (without manure); C + F: control + flood (without manure); M: manure application; M + F: manure application + flood; circles and triangles are used for 6 °C, and squares and inverted triangles for 14 °C; empty symbols for unflooded soils and full symbols for flooded soils. The percentage of total variance explained by each principal component (PC) is shown in brackets.

NH_4^+ (high in soil solution of flooded and non-flooded manure treatments) under freshwater but not under saline water after the flood stage; and type II, 18:1 w9c (Bowman et al., 1991, 1993). These two fatty acids are precursors of cyclopropane fatty acids under stress conditions. The lack of a positive correlation between 16:1 w7c fatty acid and soil solution NH_4^+ concentration, besides the lack of N_2O emissions of the flooded manure treatment under saline water during the soil recovery, could be an indication of the negative effect of this kind of flooding on nitrification after the water recedes although further work is needed to confirm this.

5. Conclusions

This study enhances our understanding of how extreme flood events alter soil functioning and consequently the delivery of ecosystem services within agroecosystems. We clearly show that different temperatures (winter/spring inundations), agricultural practices (manure application) and sources of floodwater alter C and N cycling, GHG emissions and microbial communities in different ways. This indicates that the precise response of soils to flooding is likely to be highly dependent on the local edaphic and management conditions as well as the typology of the flood event itself. It also suggests that the development of universal strategies to minimize and alleviate the negative impact of flooding may prove difficult. On balance, our results suggest that warmer flooding conditions result in greater negative impacts on soil and water quality. Although simulated coastal flooding resulted in

lower GHG emissions than riverine flooding, the high salinity of marine waters may severely impact on other key aspects of soil functioning, such as soil structural stability, mesofaunal activity and plant growth. Further work is therefore needed to explore the longer-term effects of the different flood typologies, particularly at the field scale, where their impact on a wider range of soil properties and ecosystem services can be investigated.

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Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary material related to this article can be found, in the online version, at doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apsoil.2017.11.022>

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